

REMARKS

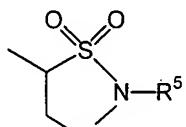
The Final Office Action dated January 8, 2004, has been received and carefully considered.

Status of the Claims

Claims 56-67 and 70-76 are currently pending, and have been indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if limited to the elected subject matter. (Final Office Action, pg 2.) Claims 56-59, 61, 63, 64, 70, and 72-76, have been amended to limit the claimed subject matter to be within the Examiner's understanding of the scope of elected Group III, as explained in the January 30, 2004, telephonic interview, discussed further below. Accordingly, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance with claims 56-67 and 70-76.

Interview Summary

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview with their undersigned representative on January 30, 2004, where the bounds of Restriction Group III were further discussed. In particular, the Examiner clarified her position that



(1) a group $(\text{CH}_2)^m$, wherein m is 1, is an iso-thiazolidine ring, and beyond the scope of the group A² (a thiazolidine ring) according to elected Group III;

CC1=CSC2=C1C=C2E

(2) a group R⁷ is not within the scope of group X² (a thiazole ring) according to elected Group III; and

(3) -NHCO- and -CONH- are distinct, and that only -NHCO- is within the scope of group Y² according to elected Group III.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with these definitions, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's time and willingness to clarify her position.

The Examiner also acknowledged that the definition of Group III set forth in the Final Office Action was erroneous and that the March 31, 2003, Office Action set forth the correct definition.

Finally, the Examiner agreed to enter an after final amendment limiting the claims to the allowable subject matter according to the above-understanding of the scope of Group III.

Restriction Requirement

Applicants acknowledge the finality of the Restriction Requirement. (Final Office Action, pg. 2.)

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request entry of this After Final Amendment, in order to put the application in condition for allowance and as agreed upon by the Examiner in the January 30, 2004, telephonic interview.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance with pending claims 56-67 and 70-76, and request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should any additional matters need to be addressed, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (202) 408-4092.

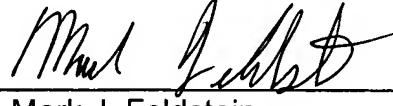
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 17, 2004

By:



Mark J. Feldstein
Reg. No. 46,693